In regard to category (ii) above, complimentary card passes are issued at the personal discretion of the Minister of Railways to eminent persons and organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational and welfare activities of national importance. Other categories are self explanatory.

(d) Since passes are complimentary in nature, the cost thereof is not computed excepting those passes issued to Freedom Fighters.

Closing of level crossings

2208. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close 536 level crossings to minimise considerable hazard to both the rail and road users to improve safety standards of Railways;

(b) if so, the names of such crossings, State and Territory-wise, with names of Zonal Railways covering these crossings;

(c) whether some of such crossings are being manned by Chowkidars at present;

(d) if so, the details of such manned and unmanned crossings;

(e) whether Government have taken any steps to implement their decision; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State and Territory-wise details of 536 level crossings are not maintained. Railway Zone-wise details are given below:

Central Railway	—	46
Eastern Railway	—	19
Northern Railway	—	85
North Eastern Railway	—	93
Northeast Frontier Railway	—	103
Southern Railway		117
South Central Railway	—	37
South Eastern Railway	—	8
Western Railway	—	28
TOTAL	-	536

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Manned — 142, Unmanned — 394

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) 65 level crossing roads will be passed through existing nearby bridges, 351 level crossings will be linked to nearby level crossings. 120 level crossings will be closed, since road traffic is either absent or very meagre which does not justify their continuance.

News item Regarding Diversion of Train to Hubli

2209. DR. MOHAN BABU:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item "PM seeks diversion of train to Hubli" appearing in the "Indian Express", dated the 8th February, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure that the railway routes are developed according to public demands and not influenced by any other consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Though some public representations were received for diversion of Chennai-Mumbai train via Hubli, no suggestion has been received from the Prime Minister. These were examined and not found feasible.

(c) Does not arise.